

(LRJ) It was January 5, 1983, that Secretary of Education, T.H. Bell announced a project to identify and accord recognition to unusually successful secondary public schools throughout the nation in cooperation with the chief state school officer in each state. This project will, was to focus on high schools and junior high and middle schools.

Secretary Bell said, "We are simply looking for distinguished schools that are doing an exceptionally fine job, so we can honor them and thereby focus attention on what they are doing that is right."

Bill Dudley, principal of the Middle School was host to Dr. Beatrice Ward from San Francisco, CA. She represented Secretary Bell for the on-site visit of those schools singled out as "unusually successful."

At the outset of the program, Dr. Burnham from the State Office of Education asked that questionnaires be filled out. From the information offered, the Middle School was selected as one of five middle schools from the state. The screening process developed the five from 250 junior high/middle schools. The five were to have special visits to determine if the information submitted about the schools was in fact being carried out. Nationally selected schools will eventually become model schools that will be documented and visited by officials who wish to see excellence in operation. Special programs will be demonstrated in particular schools where they have been successful.

Dr. Ward has met with Mr. Dudley and all of the teachers, as well as students that represent all grades, and parent group, and she has observed in the classrooms and lunchroom (She didn't complain about the cafeteria lunch.) A completing interview was to be completed before she left the school. One of her observations was that the teachers were very happy and content.

The Department of Education, to carry out its projects, hires

consulting firms to do field work. Dr. Ward was originally from Brigham City, finished her public school education in Salt Lake City, attended college at the U of U and taught eight years in Salt Lake, received her masters degree at Columbia Teachers College, worked in Monterey, CA, and received her Ph.D at UC Berkeley. She worked 14 years for the Farwest Laboratory in Salt Lake City and is presently employed by the Center for Interacting Research and Development, S.F., CA. Her reports will then be submitted to the National Department of Education. That department will then select a number of schools to be representative schools.

Mr. Dudley declared that intercommunication between middle school administrators has existed and is getting better all the time. A new organization, Utah Middle Schools Association, has a sole purpose of sharing and "stealing" from one another good ideas that can be implemented in the many schools.

The unbiased work done by Dr. Ward's employer affords even a better opportunity for nation-wide schools to examine the best of other schools.

The Wasatch Middle School is the first of the schools to be visited by Dr. Ward, but she stated that "This school compares very favorable with a typical middle school. It's a real honor for the school to reach the stage that it has." Team planning had been claimed in the primary questionnaires, and Dr. Ward related that "It definitely is!" Team planning seems to be a plus for this school-allowing ready access to teachers by students and parents.

Dr. Ward will visit ten school in the west. Some 400 high and junior high schools will eventually be visited across the nation "Already (this) school has been recognized as one of the very few outstanding junior highs in the country... There were only two middle schools in Utah that made it into this final group." Dr. Ward's job was to verify the

if they are able to function above a minimum level. This type of fitness is generally referred to as

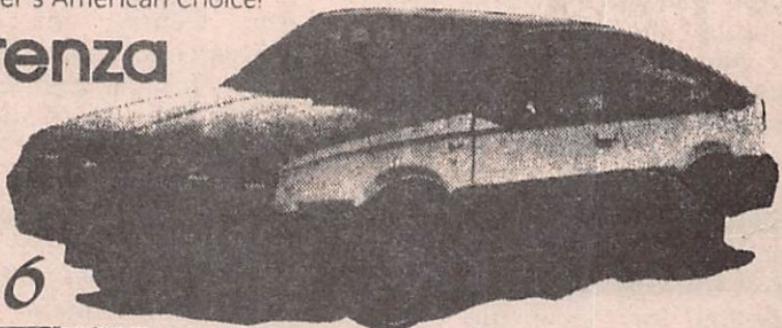
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